

[English]

Violation of Bonded Labour Abolition System Act

4547. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to an indepth study by a Group of Planning Commission which has reported about the gross violation of Bonded Labour System Abolition Act in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Development and Welfare of Scheduled Castes during Eighth Five Year Plan has in their report have made some observations regarding violation of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 by some State. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers lies with the State Government concerned. The State Governments have been requested to implement the provisions of the Act more vigorously. The progress is being monitored through monthly progress reports.

KVIC Sponsored Agro based Industries in Andhra Pradesh

4548. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been extending financial assistance to rural agro-based industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the industries sponsored during the last three years; and

(c) the amount advanced by KVIC to these industries and whether the loan recovery was as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). KVIC is extending financial assistance to rural agro-based industries in the country including Andhra Pradesh. During the last three years, the following agro-based industries under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission in Andhra Pradesh have been sponsored:—

1. Beekeeping,
2. Ghani Oil
3. Cane Gur and Khandsari,
4. Palmgur,
5. Processing of cereals & Pulses Industry,
6. Collection of Forest Plants & Fruits,
7. Fruits & vegetable processing,
8. Fibre other than coir.

During 1990-91 the funds disbursed by KVIC for the above industries in Andhra Pradesh were of the order of Rs. 404.30 lakhs.

Underground Coalfield Fire Fighting Operation

4549. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has been requested to finance underground coal field

fire gifting operations in coal belts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited a team of columned experts from U. S. A. to tackle the fire in the coal mines of country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these steps are proposed to cover the losses being suffered by these coal mines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIP. A. SANGMA):

(a) and (b). A proposal for controlling/extinguishing fires in Jharia Coalfield was posed to the World Bank for possible financing. During the visit of last Mission, the World Bank team has suggested a diagnostic study of Jharia fires in the first instance.

(c) to (g). Government have not invited any team of expert from U. S. A., to tackle the fires in the coal mines of the country. However, a team of 4 mining engineers was deputed to visit U. S. A. during the month of November, 1991 to search the suitable technology for completely extinguishing the existing fires in Jharia Coalfield. The team has identified the following technologies which could be applied to deal with Jharia Coalfield fires:—

(i) Use of Hydro Monitors quenching the fire followed by excavation of heated debris and coal;

(ii) Drilling under high temperature conditions;

(iii) Infusion of foams through bore holes;

(iv) Use of expanding semi-slurry mix for seaming of the crux and stabilising the area.

Detailed Action Plan is being worked out by Coal India Limited based on the above technologies to control the fires effectively.

[Translation]

Foreign Investments

4550. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are encouraging foreign investment in various sectors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost indigenous investment to those sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The policy initiatives for promoting foreign direct investment in India have been outlined in the Statement on Industrial Policy laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991. As indicated in the Statement, it is expected that foreign investment would bring attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, introduction of modern managerial techniques and new possibilities for promotion of exports.

The New Industrial Policy contains specific steps which are expected to boost domestic investment also in the industrial sector. These include abolition of industrial